

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters of interest occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and other labor information from the trade union movement.

VOL. 16, NO. 14.

EMPLOYERS VIOLATE CHILD LABOR LAW

Chicago, Ill., June 19.—Illinois employers are increasing their violation of the state child labor laws, according to William H. Curran, chief factory inspector.

The Illinois law prohibits children under 14 from working for compensation during school hours, from 7 o'clock in the morning or after 6 in the evening. It also prohibits employment from working children under 16 more than six days a week, more than 8 hours a day, and before 7 in the morning and after 7 in the evening. An Illinois provision forbids the employment of children under 16 to work in a hazardous occupation or occupation regarded as detrimental to health and dangerous to life.

Owners of fruit, vegetable, and grocery stores, the inspector points out, persistently violate the law by employing children under 16 on such matters. Violations are also being committed not only by the work of the factory inspection division but also by the fact that many of the children are working on their own. In some cases, they are reported to the industrial commission.

For is the employers' attack on the lives and limbs of children under 16 to insurance or carelessness? It is a matter to a determination to violate the law and a wanton disregard of the rights of the children.

As a precautionary measure against violations of the child labor law, the child should be a working certificate. In this case, some employers are reported to the industrial commission.

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING CONDEMNED

Washington, June 19.—The House Committee on Military Affairs has included in the bill for the compulsory military training bill introduced by Representative Walsh of Philadelphia.

The bill would require that army officers and other United States employees from other educational institutions in which they are receiving training, to receive military training in schools.

Mr. Walsh declares the purpose of the bill is to democratize the education of the nation by making it a part of the present law and the provision which makes military training compulsory in schools and colleges.

The measure has received the support of the American Federation of Labor, which has taken a firm stand against "any quality of mental education which would tend to inculcate the spirit of militarism."

EMPLOYERS EVADE COMPENSATION LAW

Harrisburg, Pa., June 19.—Negligence and refusal of Pennsylvania employers to comply with the workmen's compensation law are depriving many workers of compensation.

W. H. Horner, director of the workmen's compensation bureau, says: "Notwithstanding the fact that the law provides a penalty of \$1 per day for each employer who fails to comply with the law, and that the law and the State will protect their employees in case of accident, by carrying workmen's compensation insurance."

Many instances of this character have come to the attention of the department, and it is being made a determined effort to bring them to a close.

Frequently employers are deprived of the benefits of the workmen's compensation law through the carelessness of employers to carry compensation insurance, and who are not financially able to pay their liabilities.

COAL MINERS' DEATH BLAMED ON OPERATORS

Topeka, Kans., June 19.—Eleven miners were killed in the coal mines of Kansas during 1918, according to the annual report of the Kansas coal mine inspection department.

The department places responsibility for the deaths of these miners directly on the fault of the operators, and it is recommended that the operators be held responsible for the deaths of the miners.

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UNION INSURANCE

St. Louis, Mo., June 19.—The International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers paid \$7,000 in old age and disability pensions last December.

Chicago, Ill., June 19.—The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America paid out \$100 in old age and disability pensions last December.

WHY FARMERS SEEK RELIEF

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PORT RICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR OUTLINES WORK

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GREEN CONDEMNES GENERAL STRIKE

Denver, Colo., June 19.—General strikes which would involve the violation of wage agreements were condemned and collective bargaining upheld by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

"In the United States the American Federation of Labor is the voice of organized labor," declared President Green.

"It is thoroughly committed to a policy of collective bargaining, the observance of wage agreements, and the settlement of disputes by arbitration."

"The American Federation of Labor regards a contract between employers and employees as a solemn obligation which must be religiously observed and honorably discharged."

"Such wage agreements are guaranteed and the security given by the integrity and moral obligation of the membership of organized labor."

"A strict adherence on the part of labor to this policy of contract observance would preclude the probability of a general strike."

"When our fellow-workers in Great Britain recently organized a strike in the use of the general strike in an effort to redress grievances which the British Government refused to redress, the working people of America, in a sane and sensible manner, watched its progress with feelings of apprehension."

"Today the workers of America are more convinced than ever of the wisdom and soundness of the policy pursued by the American Federation of Labor."

SMALL OUTPUT OF BRITISH COAL MINERS

Washington, June 19.—In 1924 the American bituminous mine produced 781 tons of coal, while the anthracite mine produced 504 tons.

In the same year British production per man averaged 246 tons.

George S. Rice, chief mining engineer of the American Federation of Labor, says: "It is due to an alleged restriction of output" imposed by the British Government.

"The American Federation of Labor is in a report on European coal mining, assigns other reasons."

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U. S. WOMEN'S BUREAU 54,184 ACCIDENTS

Washington, June 19.—The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor has announced that 54,184 accidents were reported in 1918.

The reduction in the number of accidents is due to the fact that the women workers in 1918 and 1919 were not as numerous as in 1918.

The department contends that "accidents are not due to the fact that the women workers in 1918 and 1919 were not as numerous as in 1918."

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RAILROADS SEEK TO MULTIPLE \$575,000,000 IN EXCESSIVE RATES

Washington, June 19.—Shall \$575,000,000 excessive freight and passenger rates be imposed upon the American people at the best of the railroad magnates of the United States?

This is the question which will be considered by the Interstate Commerce Commission at a railroad valuation hearing on June 23.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has fixed rates of return on the value of the properties devoted to public service.

The National Conference on Valuation of American Railroads, started by the late Senator La Follette, is headed by Senator Norris, and is a valuation based upon the value of the property, and is not entitled to a penny more."

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LOW-WAGE EMPLOYERS VICTIMIZE CHILDREN

London, June 19.—A practice of employers to discharge young workers after only 16 years of age in order to avoid the cost of paying increased wages and the expense and trouble of carrying out their duties under the national health and employment insurance acts is revealed in a report of the Ministry of Labor.

The report also points out the unscrupulous character of much of the employment of children in the home, and the fact that the children are not only employed in the home, but in the home, and is not entitled to a penny more."

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CARPENTERS' OLD-AGE HOME AND PENSIONS

Indianapolis, Ind., June 19.—"The biggest problem before our organization today is the establishment of a home for the aged and infirm, for our aged and infirm members," declared the president of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

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